



PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

November 12, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[CDC Announces Flu Vaccine Distribution Plan](#)

CNN, November 9, 2004

Federal, state and local health officials announced Tuesday a formula that will allow people at high risk for flu to be vaccinated.

[CDC: U.S. Flu Season Starting Slowly](#)

[HHS Plans To Buy Disputed Anthrax Vaccine For Civilian Use](#)

Government Executive, November 5, 2004

The Health and Human Services Department plans to buy 5 million doses of anthrax vaccine for civilian inoculations, even though a federal judge ruled last week that the product has not been properly validated as safe and effective.

[DHS Designates 2005 Presidential Inauguration as National Special Security Event](#)

DHS, November 8, 2004

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has designated the Presidential Inauguration to be held on January 20, 2005 as a National Special Security Event (NSSE). This NSSE designation will also be extended to the Swearing-in Ceremony at the U.S. Capitol, the Inaugural Parade, the official reviewing stand on Pennsylvania Avenue, and the Inaugural Balls.

[DHS Lowers Threat Level For Financial Service Sector](#)

DHS, November 10, 2004

Today, the Department of Homeland Security announced that the U.S. government has lowered the threat level for the financial services sector in New York City, Northern New Jersey and Washington, D.C. from 'high' or Code Orange to 'elevated' or Code Yellow.

[Federal Authorities Investigating Propane Tank Thefts](#)

ABC 7 News, November 9, 2004

Members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force have been meeting with the major propane suppliers in Denver to document for themselves the exact numbers of missing cylinders.

[FBI On Lookout For 100 Large Tanks Missing In Colorado](#)

[FEMA Rolls Out \\$6 Million New Truck Program To Enhance Disaster Response](#)

All Hands Community, November 9, 2004

In a continuing effort to enhance disaster response capabilities, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today launched a \$6.7 million program that will speed the response capabilities of its Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT).

[Report Calls for Stronger Oversight Of Homeland Security Spending](#)

Government Executive, November 10, 2004

The federal government is throwing more and more money at homeland security, but isn't keeping a close enough eye on where the money is spent, according to a new study published by a right-leaning think tank.

[Truckers Help To Thwart Terrorism](#)

Colorado State Collegian, November 09, 2004

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced an additional \$21 million grant available for use beginning in March 2005 for the American Trucking Association's Highway Watch

Program. The highway watch program was activated by the DHS to train highway professionals to identify and report safety and security concerns on the nation's roads.

THE CONGRESS

9/11 Commission Pushes For Implementation Of Its Report

PolitInfo.com, November 9, 2004

With the re-election of President Bush, the 9-11 Commission that investigated the terrorist bombings in New York and Washington on September 11, 2001, has renewed its push for implementation of its recommendations. Key among those recommendations is the creation of a single intelligence chief.

House Democrats Criticize Rail Security Efforts In Nation's Capital

Government Executive, November 4, 2004

Democrats on the House Homeland Security Committee this week criticized the Homeland Security Department for not requiring railroads to reroute hazardous shipments around Washington, D.C.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Sycamore Fire Department To Take Part In NIMS

The MidWeek News, November 10, 2004

Members of the Sycamore City Council approved a resolution during the Nov. 1 meeting to allow the fire department to participate in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Alabama Officials Use FEMA Grant To Conduct Student Fire Simulation

Eufaula Tribune, November 8, 2004

Eufaula Fire Department Training Officer Lt. Terry Walker, with help from firefighters Donnie Maddox and Blake Forrester, had brought the department's mobile Fire Safety House to the school not to frighten children, but to teach them how to prevent fires as well as how to get out safely if a fire occurs.

Alabama School Models Threat Assessment Team After FBI, Secret Service Teams

The Decatur Daily, November 9, 2004

Communication is the key to keeping schools safe, local school administrators said Monday.

CERT Team Train For Emergencies

Tribune Review, November 9, 2004

It could happen any day, anywhere. Although the storm scenario is fictitious, Southwest Greensburg residents are in fact preparing for a disaster -- a tornado, a flood, a gas explosion or even a terrorist attack.

Commissioners Send Hazard Mitigation Plan To FEMA

Gainesville Daily Register, November 9, 2004

What Emergency Management Coordinator Ray Fletcher called a living document, the County Commissioners approved unanimously during their meeting Monday morning. Now, the county's Hazard Analysis and Mitigation Plan will go to the state for review, then it will be filed with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

County Wants Anti-Terror Funds

Sun-Sentinel, November 9, 2004

Palm Beach County, frustrated by its inability to obtain federal anti-terrorism aid, is asking for Gov. Jeb Bush's help. The county says its historical brushes with terrorism give it a strong claim

to a portion of \$32 million distributed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to Miami and Miami-Dade County -- and millions of dollars more still to be earmarked for the region.

DC Council Rejects Ban On Hazmat Shipments

The Washington Post, November 10, 2004

The D.C. Council rejected legislation yesterday that would have barred railroads from shipping hazardous materials through the nation's capital, defusing a standoff with the U.S. Transportation Security Administration and CSX Corp.

George Mason University To Build Bioterrorism Lab In Prince William County

The Washington Post, November 10, 2004

George Mason University will build a \$40 million high-security laboratory in Prince William County to test and develop new vaccines and treatments to defend the public against bioterrorism, officials announced yesterday.

Mock Disaster Tests WMU Preparedness

The Western Herald, November 10, 2004

A new Michigan law requires universities of more than 25,000 students to have an emergency management coordinator and practice rescues with the community.

Oakland, Macomb County Leaders Demand DHS Funding For Equipment, Training

The Detroit News, November 9, 2004

Leaders in both counties say they need more money to help protect such facilities as the Pontiac Silverdome, the DaimlerChrysler headquarters in Auburn Hills and Selfridge Air National Guard base, which houses five branches of the armed forces.

Pennsylvania Avenue Reopens After Security Improvements

The Washington Times, November 10, 2004

Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House reopened yesterday as a bollard-studded, vehicle-proofed sidewalk — and First Street near the U.S. Capitol is next, a top law-enforcement official said.

Terrorism Response Test Held At Airport

The Birmingham News, November 10, 2004

The Transportation Security Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation were hosts of a large air disaster practice from 11 last night to 4 a.m. today.

West Virginia City Pays Out Nearly \$164,000 In Emergency Overtime Costs

The Intelligencer, November 10, 2004

The emergency expense, as it is classified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, came in the first two weeks following the Sept. 17-19 flooding. Cleanup work that is taking place now, such as what city workers are doing this week at the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater adjacent to the Heritage Port, is considered permanent cleanup by FEMA.

RELATED INFORMATION

OPINION

- **First Things First**, *The Washington Post*, November 8, 2004

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Homeland Security or FEMA's Preparedness Division.